

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Because CALFED began funding projects in 1995, there has been more public participation in the Ecosystem Restoration Program than in any other CALFED Program element. The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) and BDAC Ecosystem Roundtable have advised CALFED agencies about project selection for three years. Ecosystem Roundtable members represent environmental, urban, agricultural, Delta and recreational interests, and state and federal agencies. Meetings are open to the public and provide a forum to discuss annual ERP implementation plans, the proposal solicitation package, project selection process, and funding recommendations. The Roundtable's recommendations are presented to BDAC and the CALFED Policy Group.

ERP FISCAL SUMMARY: Funding of CALFED ecosystem restoration projects is a cooperative effort between state and federal agencies, stakeholders, and the public. CALFED has received ecosystem restoration funds from four primary sources, including approximately \$32 million from the California Urban Water Agencies, \$60 million from Proposition 204 State bond funds, \$190 million from the Federal Bay-Delta Act, and \$2 million from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency watershed funding. When the Record of Decision was signed, an additional \$390 million of state bond funds became available for CALFED ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration funds are administered through the cooperative efforts of the CALFED agencies.

Ecosystem restoration projects may be selected as directed programs or through a public solicitation process. A directed program results when CALFED directs funds to a specific project activity identified because of its ability to help the program achieve its long-term ecosystem restoration goals. Projects selected as directed programs are identified through public and technical outreach and the use of the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration and long-term Ecosystem Restoration Plan. All ecosystem restoration projects go through a rigorous scientifically based selection process that involves agencies, stakeholders, and the public. The CALFED Policy Group makes funding recommendations to the California Secretary for Resources and the US Secretary of the Interior.

To date, CALFED has funded 266 projects for a total of approximately \$256 million. In December 2000, CALFED approved an additional 74 projects along with supporting pre-feasibility and scientific studies. Of these, 14 will be funded through the CVPIA, primarily through the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program that is coordinating with CALFED in implementing ecosystem projects. Types of projects funded have included fish screens, fish ladders, land acquisition, habitat restoration, and focused research and monitoring projects designed to provide information that will improve future restoration efforts. While projects are being selected, contracted for, and implemented, ERP expenditure rates remain low. In virtually all cases, ERP projects are funded as three year contracts, with the full project value being obligated. In several cases, for the project to move forward, large amounts of funding were required to be set aside for the project purpose. An example of this is the Battle Creek Project. In order for the parties to complete the contract negotiations, the full value of the project, \$28 million, needed to be set aside for the project purpose. These funds will not be expended for five years.